

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/387,796

Examiner

Steven P. Sax

Applicant(s)

CHRISTENSEN ET AL

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Examiner's Amendment 10/30/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-10,12-16 and 18-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/30/07.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



Reasons For Allowance

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. This was made to cancel out the claims with the 101 rejection, and to clarify in the remaining claims how the graphical objects in each set are progressively related and progressively displayed. Applicant also reserves the right to file a continuation to continue prosecution regarding the cancelled claims. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Please rewrite claim 1 as follows:

A computer-based method of visually delineating a progressive relationship between a series of related graphical objects in a graphical user interface, the method comprising:

associating a first icon with a first set of at least two diverse, but progressively related and progressively displayed graphical objects, said first icon having a first color scheme, and associating a second icon with a second set of at least two diverse, but progressively related and progressively displayed graphical objects, said second icon having a second color scheme, said first and second icons being distinguishable from each other;

when a graphical object in said first set is displayed, displaying said first icon within said displayed graphical object in said first set, and when a graphical object in said second set is displayed, displaying said second icon within said displayed graphical object in said second set; and

wherein said progressively displayed graphical objects in said first and second sets are recognizable as related by the persistence of first and second icons, respectively.

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Please rewrite claim 7 as follows:

A computer-based method of delineating a progressive relationship between a series of related graphical objects, said method comprising:

associating at least one icon with a first graphical object, said icon having an associated color scheme;

displaying a second graphical object diverse from, but progressively related to said first graphical object;

displaying said icon within said second object, and

wherein said second object is recognizable as related to said first object by the persistence of said icon with said associated color scheme, and said icon associated with said first and second graphical object being distinguishable from icons associated with other series of progressively related graphical objects.

Please rewrite claim 21 as follows:

A computer-based system with visually and progressively related graphical objects comprising:

a first icon retained in computer storage, said icon having an associated color scheme and associated with a first graphical object;

a display progressively visually instantiating a first set of graphical objects diverse from, but progressively related to said first graphical object;

wherein said first icon with said associated color scheme is replicated within a visual space said displayed one or more graphical objects progressively related to said first object, and

wherein displayed objects in said first set of graphical objects are visually recognizable as related due to the persistence of said icon with said associated color scheme and said first icon associated with said first graphical object and progressively related first set of graphical objects being distinguishable from a second icon associated with a second graphical object and progressively related second set of graphical objects.

Please cancel claims 15-16 and 18-20

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Soundararajan on 10/30/01.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Examiner's Amendment, in combination with the amendment filed 6/25/07 place the application into condition for allowance. The Examiner's Amendment cancels the claims with the 101 rejection, and clarifies claims 1, 7, and 21 regarding the progressive relationship of graphical objects in which the icon is persistent. The specification and prosecution history make clear that the progression refers to the evolution of development of the graphical object, and so this simply clarifies the feature in the claims. Also, applicant reserves the right to file a continuation to continue prosecution, such as for the 101 rejected claims or other issues. The independent claims as now recited (1 – computer based method, 7 – computer based method going through the progressive display, 12 - computer based method going through the evolution of development, 21 – computer based system) are not set forth in the prior art of record.

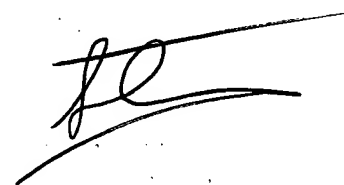
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven P. Sax whose telephone number is (571) 272-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature, possibly reading "JL", is written over two horizontal lines in the bottom right corner of the page.